

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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USNMR SHAPE

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S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0162

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES OF
MARCH 29, 1977

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE MARCH 29, 1977 INFORMAL SESSION
OF THE VIENNA TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE
BELGIAN REP, FRG REP AND US REP AND THE EAST BY SOVIET REPS
TARASOV AND SHUSTOV, CZECHOSLOVAK REP MEISNER, AND POLISH
REP DABROWA. MILITARY ADVISERS ALSO PARTICIPATED.

2. DURING THE SESSION, WESTERN REPS REJECTED THE EASTERN
FREEZE PROPOSAL TO BE BASED ON DATA TABLED BY BOTH SIDES.
TARASOV PRESSED MERITS OF FREEZE PROPOSAL. WESTERN REPS
ANSWERED EASTERN QUESTIONS ON WESTERN DATA FROM THE MARCH 22
SESSION AND ASKED FURTHER QUESTIONS OF EAST. EASTERN REPS

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ANSWERED SOME WESTERN QUESTIONS ABOUT EASTERN DATA POSED IN
THE PREVIOUS SESSION AND ASKED FURTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT WESTERN
DATA, AGAIN FOCUSING LARGELY ON FRG FORCES. WESTERN REPS
RESPONDED TO MOST OF THESE QUESTIONS. WESTERN REPS REJECTED
EASTERN CONCEPT THAT DATA TABLED BY THE EAST SHOULD BE USED
AS A BASIS FOR AGREEMENT MERELY BECAUSE IT WAS STATED TO BE
QUOTE OFFICIAL UNQUOTE. EASTERN REPS AGAIN CLAIMED WESTERN QUESTIONS

ON EASTERN DATA WERE DRAGGING OUT THE NEGOTIATIONS. EASTERN REPS PRESENTED A DEFENSE AGAINST WESTERN CRITICISMS OF INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN PAST EASTERN STATEMENTS AND PRESENT EASTERN DATA CLAIMS. EASTERN REPS DID NOT IN THIS SESSION MENTION THEIR PROPOSAL TO TABLE NATIONAL TOTALS, THOUGH THEY ASKED A QUESTION SUPPORTING THIS POSITION.

3. BELGIAN REP COMPARED WESTERN AND EASTERN NO-INCREASE PROPOSALS. HE SAID A FREEZE ON THE BASIS OF THE ACTUAL MANPOWER STRENGTH IN THE AREA WOULD CONTRACTUALIZE THE EASTERN SUPERIORITY IN MILITARY MANPOWER AND WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE. A NO-INCREASE PROPOSAL BASED ON DATA ON WHICH THERE WAS ACTIVE DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN EAST AND WEST WOULD BE UNWORKABLE AND A CONTINUING SOURCE OF MISUNDERSTANDING AND CONTENTION. CONSEQUENTLY, THE EASTERN PROPOSAL WAS NOT FEASIBLE.

4. TARASOV ALSO ADDRESSED THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL. HE SAID THE FREEZE WOULD HAVE ADVANTAGES WHICH SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED. THE EASTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE PERMITTED A TOTAL CEILING OF NOT MORE THAN 987,300 MEN AND THE WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS 921,000 MEN. AGREEMENT ON A FREEZE WOULD NOT PREJUDICE THE POSITIONS OF EITHER SIDE. HE URGED THE WESTERN REPS TO CONSIDER THE EASTERN PROPOSAL FURTHER. TARASOV'S FORMULATION IN THIS SESSION OF THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL, APPARENTLY BASING IT ON TOTALS TABLED BY EACH SIDE, MIGHT INDICATE THAT SUCH A FREEZE WOULD IN EFFECT BE COLLECTIVE ALTHOUGH TARASOV DID NOT EXCLUDE NATIONAL SUB-CEILINGS.

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5. FRG REP ANSWERED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ASKED BY EASTERN REPS IN THE INFORMAL SESSION OF MARCH 22 AND ASKED FURTHER INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS ABOUT EASTERN DATA.

6. POLISH REP ANSWERED A NUMBER OF WESTERN QUESTIONS FROM THE MARCH 22 SESSION. HE MADE A STATEMENT ON THE ORGANIZATIONS WHICH THE EAST HAD EXCLUDED FROM ITS COUNT IN WHICH HE DID NOT GO BEYOND EARLIER EASTERN STATEMENTS AND FAILED TO PROVIDE THE SPECIFIC NAMES OF EXCLUDED ORGANIZATIONS AS REQUESTED BY THE WEST. HE ASKED FIVE FURTHER QUESTIONS REGARDING WESTERN DATA HAVING MAINLY TO DO WITH FRG FORCES. FRG REP ANSWERED MOST OF THESE QUESTIONS.

7. US REP REJECTED TARASOV'S PROPOSAL MADE IN THE MARCH 22 SESSION THAT EACH SIDE SHOULD ACCEPT THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENTAL DATA PUT DOWN BY THE OTHER SIDE. HE SAID THIS IDEA AMOUNTED TO REQUIRING THAT EACH SIDE ACCEPT WITHOUT QUESTION THE ASSERTIONS MADE BY THE OTHER SIDE IN A SITUATION WHERE THERE ALREADY EXISTED OPEN AND WIDE DISAGREEMENT ABOUT THE NUMBER OF WARSAW

PACT FORCES IN THE AREA. AN AGREEMENT REACHED ON THIS BASIS WOULD QUITE JUSTIFIABLY BE REJECTED BY GOVERNMENTS, PARLIAMENTS AND THE PUBLIC ALIKE. EAST-WEST AGREEMENT ON CERTAIN SPECIFIC FIGURES WAS NEEDED IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A BASIS FOR CALCULATING REDUCTIONS, LIMITATIONS AND NO-INCREASE COMMITMENTS. US REP REJECTED TARASOV'S CLAIM THAT AGREED FIGURES WERE IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT POSSESSION OF UNIT ROSTERS.

8. TARASOV SAID IT WAS LEGITIMATE FOR WEST TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT EASTERN DATA, BUT CLAIMED THAT THE WESTERN METHOD OF DATA QUESTIONING WAS DRAGGING OUT THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE REJECTED THE CONCEPT THAT IT WAS UP TO THE EAST TO PRODUCE CONVINCING EVIDENCE IF WESTERN FIGURES ON EASTERN FORCES WERE INACCURATE.

9. CZECHOSLOVAK REP REJECTED WESTERN ACCUSATIONS ON INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN PAST EASTERN POSITIONS AND PRESENT EASTERN DATA. EARLIER IN THE TALKS, WESTERN REPS THEMSELVES
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HAD COMPLAINED THAT THE EAST HAD REJECTED WESTERN DATA WHILE REFUSING TO TABLE DATA OF ITS OWN. WESTERN ALLOCATION OF DISPUTED FORCE TYPES WAS DESIGNED TO INFLATE WESTERN DATA ON DISPARITIES CALLING FOR EASTERN REDUCTIONS THREE TIMES LARGER THAN THOSE OF THE WEST. IF THE EAST HAD EXCLUDED FROM ITS TABLED TOTALS THE PACT MILITARY PERSONNEL PERFORMING FUNCTIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE BEING PERFORMED BY CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE WEST, THE WEST WOULD HAVE MORE MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA THAN THE EAST. THE WESTERN ARGUMENT THAT THE EAST HAD NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY IN MAJOR ARMAMENTS DID NOT PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF LARGER EASTERN MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA. FOR ITS PART, THE WEST USED A LARGE NUMBER OF CIVILIANS TO MAINTAIN ITS ARMAMENTS IN COMBAT READINESS. END SUMMARY.

FULL TEXT OF REPORT SENT VIA AIRGRAM.RESOR

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